

Congewai News

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Newsletter Week 1

Term 3 2014

Welcome back to school everyone, we trust that you've enjoyed a restful holiday break and have recharged the batteries, while managing to stay out of the cold and wind as much as possible.

We had a great end to the term with our first year 6 fundraiser for the year, our PJ Day. We also conducted our first "canteen" for the year, enjoying some yummy treats. Both events raised just over \$80 for the end of year present to the school. We will be holding a "canteen" day on the last day of each term this year, with order forms going home on the second last week of each term. Menus will be discussed with the school leaders and decided accordingly.

We've got some exciting and interesting things coming up in our innovative school, including excursions, incursions, sport days and learning programs.

Our Kitchen Garden program commences this term for our primary students, Miss Naysmith and Mrs Miller will be conducting lessons with students each Wednesday. These lessons will be cross curricular and will focus on both sustainability and healthy lifestyle.

Our Infants class will be focusing on science enquiry with a literature focus each Wednesday with Mrs Woodward. This allows each class to study their own specific topics.

We'd like to welcome Mr Cagney to our teaching team, teaching our primary class on Monday, Tuesday and Thursdays, until lunch times each week while I work with

the Infants class.

We would also like to welcome Mrs Van der Wel to our school. Mrs Van der Wel is a highly experienced and innovative teacher librarian who will be delivering exciting learning in library, literacy and information skills on most Fridays.

Mrs Woodward will be working with students in the learning support teacher role and working with all students in the classroom, each Wednesday.

And of course, Miss Naysmith is with us in the Infants classroom along with Mrs Dunstan helping in the Primary classroom. And Mrs Effer will continue to be our replacement teacher as much as possible. Please look inside our newsletter for an overview of learning events for the term in our class news.

Till next time....

Donna Stackman



We'd like to advise of the upcoming P&C AGM next week, on Wednesday 23rd of July at 5:30pm.

All parents and community members are very welcome.

Diary Dates:

Monday 14/7/14	Staff Development Day Term 3
Tuesday 15/7/14	Students return to school for Term 3
Thursday 17/7/14	Community meeting regarding information for Crawford Bridge
Friday 18/7/14	NAIDOC celebrations at Wollombi PS - bus leaving from Paxton PS @ 9:00 or parent transport please
Monday 21/7/14	Whole School Assembly 2:30 pm
Wednesday 23/7/14	P&C meeting + AGM 5:20 in classroom
Friday 25/7/14	School Tree Day
Wednesday 30/7/14	Celebrating Education Week with a "high tea" afternoon 1:30 - 3pm
Thursday 31/7/14	Author visit Millfield PS - parent transport please

Celebrating Education Week 28th July to 1st August - 60 years since the first "Education Week" and still going strong.

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Infants Classroom News

Literacy - Kindergarten will be undertaking L3 intensive literacy lessons each morning with Mrs Stackman. During this time, Years 1 & 2 will be working on spelling activities with Miss Naysmith.

Following this, Infants will be immersing in other literacy strands, such as talking and listening, writing structures and reading.

Home reading will be sent home next week giving students time to return their existing home readers to school, along with their home reading folders and reading logs. Teachers will choose the home readers to compliment the child's existing skills and needs. Please ensure reading folders are returned by this Friday, ready for our new program.

Maths - We will be investigating number skills each week and a sub-strand each week. This week the focus will be on fractions. This work topic will be reflected in the week's homework.

Science - We will be exploring the book Uno's Garden and using it as a base for our science learning. Do you know what critters are fantastic for natural cockroach and spider control in your home? No pesticides needed!

Primary Classroom News

Literacy- Primary will focus on information report writing. They will learn how to research, finding "good" information, how to note take and how to use notes to create reports. They will also use bibliographies and create strong work. To compliment this they will continue spelling activities with a weekly word list and spelling rules and parts of written speech focuses.

Reading will be undertaken for the first 10 minutes of the day with their own choice book. This will be followed later in the day with intensive reading instruction.

Primary will be watching BTN (Behind the News) weekly and will be expected to complete activities each week as part of their homework. They will receive a BTN homework book. This is an on-line television show, available through the ABC and students may re-watch it at home to assist in their homework.

Maths- Primary will work on number as the main component of their maths program, followed by a weekly sub-strand of mathematics, this week the sub-strand is 'fractions'. This will be complimented through weekly homework and work on Mathletics, Studyladder and Sumdog.

HSIE- This term, primary is studying Government, local, state and federal. Later in the term, years 5 & 6 will visit Canberra as part of the small school's stage 3 excursion.

Public Speaking- During the end of last term, our students were invited to present a speech to enter this year's public speaking competition. We heard different speeches with varied topics and it was difficult to choose those who would participate in competition with our region's other schools at Nulkaba PS. We have chosen Gabby, Kim and Ben to represent our school. Congratulations to all who entered our school competition and we wish our students well when going onto the next level of competition. Our entire primary class will be working on public speaking specifically this term as part of our English requirement.

Kitchen Garden Program- Miss Naysmith and Mrs Miller, along with Mrs Stackman will be delivering the program with a topic of learning each week, on Wednesdays. This topic will link to various areas of curriculum study such as mathematics, science, history, art, literacy etc. Students will record their learning in their journals and be responsible for the kitchen garden blog updates.

Whole School Learning

Creative Arts- Each Tuesday K-6 will participate in creative arts: music, dance and drama, and visual arts on Thursday.

Sport and Fitness skills- Friday will be our sport day, with a particular sport taught each fortnight and fitness each fortnight on a rotational basis. Fitness will cover such things as yoga, tai chi, dance fitness and boot camp.

Library lessons - Library borrowing will continue to take place each Thursday afternoon. Students who forget to bring their books in on Thursday, may still borrow on Fridays. Mrs Van der Wel will deliver library lessons on most Fridays. On the Friday she is unable to be with us, Mrs Stackman will deliver the library program.



Our PBL (Positive Behaviour for Learning) focus is on being

"Ready to Learn."

Please ask your child what they think this means at the end of the week?

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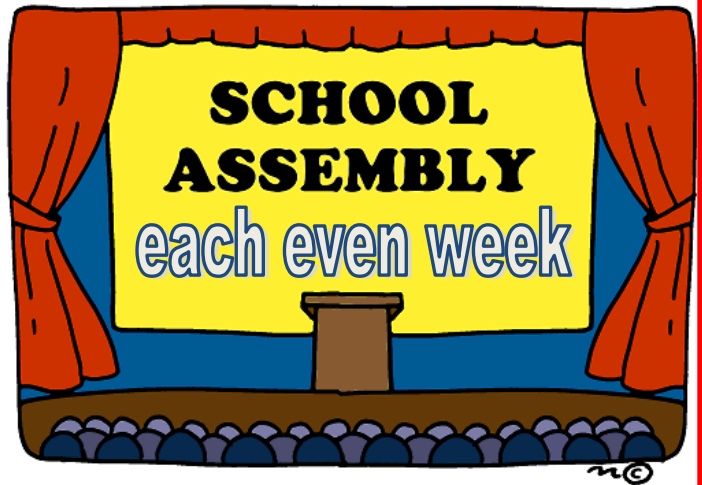
Kindergarten 2015

We are now taking enrolments for Kindergarten 2015. Enrolling now will help us develop an effective Kindergarten transition program that will take place later on this year in term 4.

If you have children who are ready to start school next year please see Mrs Dunstan in the office at your earliest convenience. Likewise, if you know of families who have children ready to start school next year and they are considering Congewai Public School as an option, please encourage them to come to our school and arrange a meeting where we can show off the wonderful programs we have here.

We will be holding some open days later in term 3 inviting visitors to our school, and showcasing the great things we do as a small school.

~ Donna



Our next assembly is

Monday 21-7-14

2:30pm

~ all are very welcome to join us!



NAIDOC DAY

Celebrating NAIDOC day with activities at Wollombi PS on Friday, 18th July, 2014.

An information / permission note was given to students in the last week of term with information about this day. Permission notes go out today and need to be returned to school this Thursday.

Paxton PS has a bus available for those students who are unable to be taken to and from Wollombi PS by their parents, and students will need to be at Paxton PS by 8:45am ready to catch the bus. It will be returning to Paxton PS by 3pm, for parents to collect their children. Miss Naysmith and Mrs Dunstan will be accompanying our children on the bus. Please notify us if your child / children will be going by bus as we have to let Paxton know numbers.

Congewai PS school staff will all be attending the NAIDOC celebration activities.

**Please return permission
notes by Thursday**

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We'd like to invite parents and family members to visit us
at school for afternoon tea to
celebrate Education Week.

Wednesday 30th July 2014

A message from Mt View High School, School Captains and Principal, Mrs Pfeffer.....

"On behalf of my school captains I would like to promote the attached flyer in this week's Congewai News. As you would be aware, Mount View HS has a proud tradition of raising awareness of, and fundraising for, humanitarian and charitable causes. Team Ivy Day will be held at the school this year on Friday 1 August and is in its 5th year. As a joint initiative with the Australian Red Cross Blood Service, this year we are launching a "400 for Ivy" campaign at the school. On that day, senior students and staff will donate blood to the Blood Service Mobile Donor Centre which will be on site as part of the Team Ivy Day activities. Ivy Tregenza owes her life to hundreds of blood donors after being diagnosed with Ectodermal Dysplasia, a rare immune deficiency disorder. The blood drive will complement our fundraising activities on the day, the proceeds of which are donated to the John Hunter Children's Hospital.

The "400 for Ivy" campaign will continue for the following week in Cessnock when the Blood Service Mobile Donor Centre will be parked in the Coles car park. Together with the Cessnock Community we hope to reach 400 donations of blood, in Ivy's name, during the week. My captains are very keen to spread the message of the benefits of blood donation and hence, if you could assist us by promoting the attached information throughout your school, it would be greatly appreciated! Perhaps you could also donate blood during the week of 4-8 August, to show your support?

With many thanks,

Mrs Pfeffer on behalf of Jordan, Kelsey, Imogen and Murray, School Captains."

Crawford Bridge repair work.....Information to Residents

Our school has been asked by Cessnock City Council to be the host venue for an information session regarding the upcoming repair work to Crawford Bridge.

Representatives from Council will be available on Thursday, 17th July, 2014, from 4pm to 6pm, to answer questions. Please come along to the school if you have queries and your questions will be answered.